

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 NRC-05 DOE-11
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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2296
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C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0216

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, MPOL, ELAB, FI
SUBJECT: FINNISH LABOR ORGANIZATION PROTEST ON NEUTRON BOMB

REF: (A) COPENHAGEN 0262, (B) 77 STATE 306542

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A LTTER ADDRESSED TO THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE SMALL FINNISH FEDERATION OF TECHNICAL EMPLOYEES UNIONS (STTK) CRITICIZING THE NEUTRON BOMB AND URGING THE US NOT TO PROCEED WITH ITS DEVELOPMENT, THE FIRST SUCH APPEAL WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM A NON-COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION. THE LETTER, SIGNED BY STTK CHAIRMAN JORMA REINI AND SECRETARY GENERAL JARMO TAMMENMAA, BOTH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, SAYS THAT (A) THE STTK BOARD ON JANUARY 6 "CONSIDERED ITS REACTION TO INFORMATION ACCORDING TO WHICH THE USG INTENDS TO COMMENCE PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON BOMB," (B) THE BOARD APPEALS TO THE USG "IN THIS UN DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE YEAR TO MAKE THE DECISION TO ABANDON THE NEUTRON BOMB," (C) THE BOARD CONSIDERS THE NEUTRON BOMB AN ELEMENT FURTHERING THE ARMS RACE, A THREAT TO WORLD SECURITY, AND CONTRARY TO THE ARTICLE ON DISARMAMENT IN THE CSCE FINAL ACT AND (D) THE STTK CONSIDERS THE "NEUTRON BOMB BARBARIC AND ITS DEVELOPMENT SENSELESS."

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2. THE PECULIAR ASPECT OF THE LETTER IS NOT SO MUCH THE VIEWS IT CONTAINS, WHICH ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE EARLIER EXPRESSED IN THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PRESS HERE, AS THE FACT THAT IT ENCLOSED, PERHAPS INADVERTENTLY, PERHAPS NOT, A COPY OF A LETTER FROM REINI TO CHAIRMAN SHIBAYEV OF THE SOVIET ALL-UNION CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS (AUCCTU). IN THAT LETTER, REINI THANKS

SHIBAYEV FOR HIS CABLE OF DECEMBER 20, 1977 (NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED) AND INFORMS HIM THAT "THIS IMPORTANT AND URGENT MATTER" HAD BEEN DEALT WITH BY THE STTK BOARD, "WHICH CONCURRED FULLY WITH THE SOVIET VIEW ON THE INHUMAN AND BARBARIC NATURE OF THE NEUTRON BOMB." REINI IN HIS LETTER THEN ADVISES SHIBAYEV THAT THE STTK BOARD DECIDED TO SEND A LETTER TO THE US AMBASSADOR, WITH COPIES TO THE OTHER FINNISH LABOR MARKET CENTRAL ORGANIZATIONS AND TO THE FINNISH PRESS. HE ALSO SAYS THAT "IF THE FUNCTIONS ARE ARRANGED BY THE SOVIET AND FINNISH TRADE UNION MOVEMENT TO OPPOSE THE NEUTRON BOMB, THE STTK WILL TAKE PART."

3. THE EMBASSY HAS TO DATE RECEIVED NO OTHER DIRECT APPEALS ON THE NEUTRON BOMB FROM SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, ALTHOUGH IN WEEKS PRIOR TO THE STTK LETTER WE HAD BEEN BARRAGED WITH A CAMPAIGN OF POSTCARDS, PETITIONS, AND DELEGATIONS ON THE SUBJECT FROM COMMUNIST AND COMMUNIST-FRONT ORGANIZATIONS, MOST OF WHICH WERE OBVIOUSLY LINKED AND DIRECTED TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT EVEN THE LANGUAGE OF THE APPEALS WAS SIMILAR. THE EMBASSY HAS NOT REPLIED TO ANY OF THESE APPEALS, OTHER THAN TO ACKNOWLEDGE THOSE PRESENTED IN PERSON. NOW IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE SOVIETS ARE TRYING TO PROMPT FURTHER ACTION BY THE FINNS, AND POSSIBLY OTHERS IF THE SHIBAYEV CABLE REPRESENTS A CONFIDENTIAL

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CAMPAIGN ON THE TRADE UNION LEVEL PARALLELING THAT BY BREZHNEV TO EUROPEAN LEADERS (REF A).

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WE REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE IN REPLYING TO STTK LETTER AND SIMILAR APPEALS WHICH MAY BE FORTHCOMING FROM NON-COMMUNIST FINNISH ORGANIZATIONS OR INDIVIDUALS. IN OUR GENERAL APPROACH HERE TO THE GROWING NEUTRON BOMB ISSUE, WE NATURALLY INTEND TO BE IN CONSONANCE WITH OVERALL USG STRATEGY FOR HANDLING THIS ISSUE. WE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE ANY TALKING POINTS OR OTHER POLICY STATEMENTS DEPARTMENT CAN OFFER ON THE NEUTRON BOMB IN ADDITION TO THOSE LISTED IN REF B, PARTICULARLY FOR USE IN REPLYING TO PUBLIC INQUIRIES ON THE SUBJECT.
RIDGWAY

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NNN

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